ports and ICD/CFS. The other measures include simplification of Customs procedures, setting up of ICDs/CFSs/Air cargo Complexes etc. to identify the bottlenecks for corrective measures.

New Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme

415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Schemes (IVBSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With an aim to reduce capital burden on prospective IWT entrepreneur, thereby enhancing their profitability and making IWT tariff competitive, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has recently been approved by the Government. The scheme will come into effect from 1.4.2002 and remain in force for a period of 5 years. The Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme would be applicable to both cargo & passenger inland vessels meant for operation on National Waterways. The subsidy will be available only for vessels acquired by an Indian inland water transport entrepreneur from a shipyard in India. The subsidy payable under this scheme would be equal to 30% of the ex-factory price of the inland vessel.

Development of Consortium of Ports

416. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Kolkata Port Trust for development of a ""Consortium of Ports" in South Asia under the auspices of Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka-Economic Cooperation (BITMS-EC) to facilitate trade activities between these member countries;

(b) if so, the details of the various proposals received and the action taken thereon; and